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SUBJECT= MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON BACKGROUND BRIEFING BY SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS/FPC/COR **REFERENCE= 81 BEIJING 5848** ILL-RELEASE LI DECLARSIFY MR Cases Only: () EXCISE () DECLASSIFY " EO Citations, () DENY IN PART CONTROL_NBR= n/a () DELETE Non-Responsive Info TS authority to. FOIA Exemptions () CLASSIFY as () S or ENCLOSURE= n/a PA Exemptions () DOWNGRADE TS to () S or

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CONCEPTS= PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE

TAGS= OVIP, MASS, SOPN, US, CH, (HAIG, ALEXANDER M JR)

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PAGE 01 BEIJIN 05910 110422Z ACTION EA-06

O R 110400Z JUN 81 FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2910 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU AMCONSUL SHANGHAI

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E.O. 12065: RDS-4 6/11/11 (ROY, J. STAPLETON) OR-M TAGS: OVIP, (HAIG, ALEXANDER M., JR.), CH SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON BACKGROUND BRIEFING BY SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL

REF: BEIJING 5848

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AT A DINNER ON JUNE 10 ZHANG WENPU, CHIEF OF THE MFA'S USA AFFAIRS DIVISION, SAID THAT HE IS CONFUSED BY THE FLURRY OF CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS EMANATING FROM WASHINGTON IN RECENT DAYS. HE SPECIFICALLY ENQUIRED AS TO THE PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND BRIEFING BY THE "SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL," INDICATING THAT PRESS REPORTS ON SESSION HAD COMPLICATED MFA CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFORTS TO GUAGE US INTENTIONS. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY ON JUNE 11 FRONTPAGED A STATEMENT MADE A

DAY EARLIER BY A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN RE-AFFIRMING CHINA'S POSITIONS THAT "WE WOULD RATHER RECEIVE NO US ARMS THAN ACCEPT CONTINUED INTER-FERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY SELLING ARMS TO TAIWAN" (REFTEL).

3. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ZHANG, EMBASSY OFFICER STRESSED THAT, CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY SOME PRESS REPORTS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING HAD TREATED ARMS SALES TO THE PRC AND TO TAIWAN AS TWO COMPLETELY SEPARATE ISSUES. ZHANG QUERIED EMBASSY OFFICER AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE "SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL," OFFERING A GUESS THAT IT MIGHT BE CHARLES FREEMAN. EMBASSY OFFICER DID NOT REVEAL THE NAME OF THE OFFICIAL. ROY

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